



Regional Service Council Minutes

Region # 16

Meeting Date: April 27, 2006
Meeting Location: Haub Steak House, Haubstadt, Indiana

Council Members Present: Regional Manager Virginia Combs
Larry Marchino
Susan Blackburn
Chris Hoehn
Judge David Kelly
Steve Cunningham
Sheila Bridges
Lark Buckman

Council Members Absent: Julie Weeks
Judge Brett Niemeier
Juanita Working
Judge Timothy Crowley

Others In Attendance: Jara Dillingham (with The Villages)
Dr. John Ireland (with Ireland & Luzio)
Michael Singleton (with Ireland & Luzio)

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at: Approximately 5:20 p.m. (6:20 p.m. Indianapolis time) by Regional Manager Virginia Combs.

1. Mrs. Combs asked everyone to introduce themselves. The agenda for today's meeting and the minutes of the February 23rd meeting had been mailed to all Council members prior to the meeting. On a motion by Sheila Bridges, seconded by Chris Hoehn, minutes of the February 23, 2006 meeting were unanimously approved.
2. Mrs. Combs distributed copies of a Legislative Summary update. Bills #132, #139, and #153 were those passed this year that impact us in the Department of Child Services and gave a brief overview. There is always some clean-up language of previous legislation involved. She explained that there is legislation that defines what a ward is, what constitutes an Informal Adjustment, and the definition of a caseworker. Wardship cases will be

reviewed on a more frequent basis than in the past. There have been changes to shorten timeframes for Termination of Parental Rights and periodic review hearings for CHINS cases. Judges may have a scheduling problem with these additional hearings.

Mrs. Combs further explained that the Department of Child Services will not be able to open voluntary service cases after September 1, 2006. By law, their responsibilities are to investigate child abuse/neglect referrals and handle CHINS and Informal Adjustments, so the focus will be on those responsibilities.

3. Mrs. Combs noted that the State of Indiana is in the process of developing a community-wide program of prevention services for families that do not reach the abuse/neglect level. At IV-B budget meetings the Regional Service Council chose Ireland Home Based Services to administer this region-wide program called Community Partners for Child Safety Program. Dr. John Ireland and Michael Singleton are guests at tonight's meeting and will update us on the progress of this program.

Mr. Singleton distributed handouts of a PowerPoint presentation by Ireland Home Based Services entitled **Community Partners for Child Safety**. Following are further comments that he and Dr. Ireland made on some of the topics.

A Brief Background

Emerging Ideas – Some changes were being suggested by caseworkers. An infrastructure was developed where they were providing the following services: parent aide, supervisor at family visits, etc.

Business Philosophy & Practice

Quality Management – Look for the best method of accomplishing a desired result.

Comprehensive Training - Two weeks of intensive training for their employees and then weekly meetings that include training.

Timeliness – Not just timely in efforts, but timely with clients. These juveniles have not been able to rely on anyone, so employees are made aware of the importance of that.

Availability – For Court dates and meetings. Also someone has their “Bat phone” 24 hours a day/7 days per week. They keep a log of calls with details.

Intervention Philosophy and Practices

Ecological Perspective – Involvement with churches and scouting.

Outcome Driven – Data is kept as a measurement tool of results.
Innovation Orientation – Includes safe assessment and systematic assessment.
Asks what are the family needs and involves mentoring with juveniles.
Service/program development is based on Caseworkers who asked why not have this? Uses the Vineland Adaptive Living Scale that measures a variety of skills and puts the client at an age level.

Pyramid of Services

They explained the roles of their staff and interactions with each other. One employee can provide several roles to the client for cost efficiency.

Overview of Ireland Home Based Services

Dr. Ireland mentioned that one of the blessings of having sixty employees is that they can do some “mixing and matching.” For instance they can switch out to an older aide with parenting experience when a parent needs some “mothering”.

Home Based Therapist

Drug and Alcohol Assessments – use SASSY screening.

Home Based Case Work

They give clients the tools to change through education. Open to other agencies for psycho-education (anger management, parenting, discipline).

Juvenile Mentor/Youth Counselor

They assist with issues such as school attendance and discipline. Use behavior modification for effective change. Spend time with the child, but also with the parents. Change the parents so the child’s life can change.

Supervised Visits

A copy of the 22 Rules for Supervised Visits was distributed. The parents sign that they understand the rules and will follow them. During the visits, staff prompts and coaches the parents to increase their parenting skills.

Parent Aide

No degree is required, although most have one. The parent aide has parenting skills through experience.

SAFE Assessments

These are done on a regular basis and as needed. Releases are signed to obtain information from neighbors, doctors and pastors.

Ireland and Luzio Behavioral Services, Inc.

They are a support service for the Home Based Services. If their services cannot be scheduled within 48 hours, it is because of a problem with the client's availability.

Program Development

There will be a Providers Fair on May 19th at the Hillside United Methodist Church in Princeton. Mr. Singleton and some others will be giving out information. County Directors should take the Fair brochures to their county and copy for staff. Hopefully, staff can check out the Fair sometime during the day. It was also suggested that brochures be shared with Child Protection Team members and Wraparound committee members. Anyone in the region can attend to learn what providers are available in our region and to learn more about the new Community Partners for Child Safety program.

Dr. Ireland stated that he has a problem with the service delivery implementation date of January 1, 2007. They have services in place already and want to start in August or September. Gini reported that Central Office is working on starting the funding early.

Service Standards for Community Partners for Child Safety

A handout of Required Activities for Community Partners for Child Safety was distributed.

Current Status

Dr. Ireland mentioned that they could use money not used in the start up phase for the ongoing service provision phase. He explained that there will be two databases – so individual counties will not have to maneuver the database to pay their bill. Ireland is in the process of reconfiguring their computers so that the billings will be ready to go to Central Office for payment. The data for this program is different from other programs. This will be discussed at a meeting on May 9th when Ireland staff goes to Indianapolis for training on the system.

Mrs. Combs stated that this program is a work-in-progress and she doesn't know how it will look down the road. Ireland Home Based Services has been very flexible working with DCS on developing this project. She noted that we are fortunate that we have a provider who is ready to go with the program. Gini thanked Mike and Dr. Ireland for their presentation to the Regional Services Council tonight.

4. Gini mentioned that Dr. Roberta Hibbard from Riley Hospital in Indianapolis came down several years ago and presented at a conference in Evansville. Dr.

Hibbard has agreed to present at a conference sometime in our region, but it will probably be after the summer. Gini stated that she is working on setting up a community forum with Dr. Hibbard as the featured speaker. She asked what type of format the Council members would like to have. She also noted that she would like the forum to be scheduled when all Regional Services Council members can attend and be introduced.

5. Mrs. Combs distributed copies of a Regional Services Council newsletter from Central Office. This will be printed on a quarterly basis and feature one region each quarter. She asked members to let her know of anything for inclusion in the newsletter.
6. Mr. Singleton reminded Council members of the all day Providers' Fair on May 19th at the Hillside United Methodist Church in Princeton. The idea of the fair is for providers to set up a booth and have an open house type setting. Gini and Mike will do regular presentations throughout the day about the Community Partners for Child Safety Program. He stated that the brochure would be sent out to various providers in the region on Monday.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time: May 25, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. at Haub Steak House, Haubstadt, Indiana. Mrs. Combs noted that in the future, we will not be meeting every month.

Meeting Adjourned at: Approximately 7:20 p.m. (8:20 p.m. Indianapolis time) upon a motion by Chris Hoehn, and seconded by Sheila Bridges.